



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/584,311	06/22/2006	Alexander Francis Routh	040587/313242	9816
826	7590	06/17/2009	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP			OLSZEWSKI, JOHN	
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA				
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			3618	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/17/2009	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/584,311	ROUTH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	JOHN R. OLSZEWSKI	3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. **The inventions found in claims (1-37 and 38-48) and claims (49-51) are related as product and process of use.** The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product, specifically the apparatus of both claims 1-37 and 38-48 could be used with a process that does not require a deformable lubricant reservoir beneath the boot binding.

**NOTE:** Applicant MUST elect either claims 1-48 (apparatus) or claims 49-51 (method), after doing this applicant must then proceed below and make an election of species.

2. **This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:**

- Species I: (Figures 1-4) disclose one embodiment of a ski
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir

Art Unit: 3618

- Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir
- Species II: (Figure 9) discloses another embodiment of a ski
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir
  - Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir
- Species III: (Figure 10) discloses an embodiment of a ski on a vehicle
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir
  - Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir
- Species IV: (Figure 11) discloses an embodiment of a snowboard
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir
  - Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir
- Species V: (Figure 14) discloses another embodiment of a ski
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface

Art Unit: 3618

- Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
- Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir
- Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir
- Species VI: (Figure 15) discloses another embodiment of a ski
  - Sub-species I: (Figure 5) one embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species II: (Figure 6) an alternate embodiment of the running surface
  - Sub-species III: (Figures 7-8) discloses one embodiment of the reservoir
  - Sub-species IV: (Figures 12-13) discloses an alternate embodiment of the reservoir

**NOTE:** For the species applicant elects applicant must elect two sub-species: being either I OR II AND III OR IV.

The species are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

There is an examination and search burden for these patentably distinct species due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would

not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

**Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.**

The election of the species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

***Conclusion***

**3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN R. OLSZEWSKI whose telephone number is (571)272-2706.** The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 5:30AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on 571-272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. R. O./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3618

/Christopher P Ellis/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 3618

Application/Control Number: 10/584,311  
Art Unit: 3618

Page 7